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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli air, sea and land violations during the month of March 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-29692 (E) 080408 080408

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during March 2008

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*Overall total*	*Previous month's violations*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare bombs, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
27	37	1	65	8	—	11	10	21	94	69

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United Nations A/62/788

General Assembly

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8 April 2008
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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 113 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Spain has presented its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2008-2011, at the elections to be held on 16 May 2008, during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

Attached hereto is a copy of the document on voluntary pledges and commitments made by the Government of Spain, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex). We should be grateful if you would have it circulated to Member States.

(*Signed*) Juan Antonio **Yáñez-Barnuevo**

08-29914 (E) 150408 150408

Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Spanish]

Voluntary pledges and commitments made by Spain to the Human Rights Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251

I. International Contribution

1. International human rights instruments to which Spain is a State party and indications of intent to ratify further instruments or to withdraw reservations

Spain is a party to nearly all the United Nations human rights instruments and to most similar instruments within the United Nations system (in particular, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

In 2005, Spain ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In December 2007, Spain was the first country of the Group of Western European and Other States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, having played a very active role in the negotiations on those instruments.

In 2007, Spain signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and it has initiated the corresponding ratification process. Spain also played an active role in the negotiations that culminated in the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007.

2. Cooperation with special procedures

Spain has issued a standing invitation to all the special procedures established by the Human Rights Council. In recent years, Spain has received visits by the following special procedures:

- Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 2003.
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, 2003.
- Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, 2006.
- In May 2008, Spain will receive a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

Spain replies promptly to communications from Special Rapporteurs and follows up the recommendations they formulate after their visits.

3. Cooperation with treaty bodies

In February 2008, Spain submitted its fifth periodic report to the Committee against Torture. During the first half of 2008, Spain will submit its periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

In 2009, Spain will submit its periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. Contribution to international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights through the provision of human, technical and financial resources

Spain supports all international initiatives for the protection and promotion of human rights, including, in particular:

- In December 2006, Spain established a 528 million euro trust fund for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which administers it. Spain is thus attempting to achieve the Goals through an economic, social and cultural rights-based approach;
- Spain is the foremost contributor to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG);
- In a special effort to combat discrimination on grounds of gender, Spain has become the second largest contributor to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- Spain has promoted and fully supports the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a forum for better understanding and dialogue among cultures and religions, which entails the promotion and protection of human rights;
- In October 2007, the Government of Spain adopted a National Plan of Action for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security;
- Spain fully supports the negotiation of a future instrument for the establishment of common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons.

5. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and support for its activities

Between 2004 and 2007, Spain's voluntary contribution to the Office of the High Commissioner increased sixfold and it became one of the top five contributors to the Office's activities.

More than half the contribution is unearmarked and the rest is earmarked for field activities (including in Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), thematic funds (protection of torture victims, indigenous populations, combating contemporary forms of slavery and the Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) and other areas (special procedures, gender violence, persons with disabilities). In 2008, Spain

made a special contribution to the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. **Commitment to fully support and engage constructively in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the special procedures**

Although Spain has not yet been a member of the Human Rights Council, it has actively contributed to the consolidation of the Council as the principal international forum for human rights issues. As a Council member, Spain will work to ensure that the Council's deliberations are informed by a constructive and cooperative spirit.

Together with Germany, Spain has proposed an initiative for the recognition of the right to drinking water and sanitation as a human right. All the relevant texts submitted thus far have been adopted by consensus and have drawn a large number of sponsors.

Spain is helping to finance the renovation of Conference Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, which would serve as the official meeting place of the Human Rights Council.

Spain fully supports the adoption of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and is playing a constructive role in the negotiations taking place within the corresponding working group.

7. **Commitment to open and constructive engagement in a robust universal review procedure, including reporting on measures taken to follow up its recommendations**

Spain will submit its first report to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council in 2010. The Spanish Government intends to develop an inclusive and transparent process for the preparation of the report, in cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Institution of Spain and non-governmental organizations active in this field.

II. National Contribution

1. **Description of the national human rights policy, including information on national human rights planning, the existence of independent national human rights institutions and guarantees of effective remedies to redress human rights abuses, etc.**

The 1978 Spanish Constitution sets out and guarantees the rights of its citizens and of all persons and establishes an independent judicial system responsible for protecting them from any form of violation or abuse. The Constitution further establishes an independent human rights institution, the Office of the Ombudsman, tasked with protecting the rights of all persons and monitoring Government actions in cooperation with regional delegates. The Ombudsman is appointed by Parliament, acts independently and does not receive instructions from any authority, in accordance with the Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles).

The Spanish Government has prepared a preliminary draft National Human Rights Plan of Action, which methodically sets out all government actions and public policies for the protection and promotion of human rights at both the domestic and foreign policy levels. Consultations on the draft Plan of Action are being held with the Ombudsman and civil society organizations, and it is scheduled for adoption in 2008 to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Spain is a member of the Council of Europe and has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and most of its Additional Protocols; thus, the rights of persons are effectively protected by regional oversight mechanisms, in particular, the European Court of Human Rights.

2. Identification of principal human rights challenges, as well as indication of steps to be taken to meet those challenges

The Spanish Government, aware of the challenges posed by the protection of human rights, has developed a set of public polices and promoted new legislation with a view to removing any obstacles to full and genuine equality of all citizens.

Laws adopted in this connection include:

- Gender Equality Act, aimed at eliminating all obstacles to genuine equality between men and women;
- Organic Act on Integral Measures for Protection against Gender Violence, aimed at protecting victims and offering them the necessary support;
- Self-Reliance Act, aimed at providing equal opportunities to those who are unable to look after themselves, and to their families;
- Gender Identity Act, eliminating all discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In addition, mandatory classes on civics and human rights have been introduced in the schools.

In order to rise to the challenges posed by an increasingly diverse Spanish society, new institutions have been established, including the:

- Spanish Observatory against Racism and Xenophobia, established in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with a view to preventing acts of a racist nature;
- Council for the Promotion of Equal Treatment, aimed at promoting equality between nationals and immigrants;
- Foundation for Pluralism and Coexistence, which promotes inter-faith dialogue and mutual understanding;
- State Council of the Gypsy People, which recognizes the special situation of a people that has been living in Spain for centuries but is still experiencing integration problems.

Lastly, 2008 will witness the establishment of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Spain, pursuant to the obligations undertaken by Spain in ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,

Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It also plans to adopt and implement a National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

3. **Indication of approach to the contribution of civil society, including in the formulation and implementation of domestic human rights policy and programmes**

The Government regularly consults civil society organizations in formulating public policies for the promotion of human rights. Two recent examples of this consultation process are:

- The National Human Rights Plan of Action. The Government shared its preliminary draft with civil society organizations. The Plan, to be adopted in 2008, will be finalized in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- Members of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture are being appointed in consultation and coordination with the National Human Rights Institution and with civil society organizations.

Additionally, civil society organizations have participated in the elaboration of a number of reports submitted to the human rights treaty bodies. Non-governmental organizations have access to funding from various government sources.

4. **Pledge to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights**

Spain will comply fully with its obligations under all the international instruments to which it is a party and will continue to uphold the highest standards in promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons under its jurisdiction. It will cooperate with other countries and international organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights the world over.